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November 27, 2002

Tobacco companies pay Ky. \$270K in fines

Kentucky Attorney General Ben Chandler said his office has recovered \$270,000 in fines from tobacco manufacturers that failed to comply with the Kentucky Model Statute.

The statute was passed to enforce the 1998 settlement agreement between tobacco companies and the states. It requires tobacco companies that did not sign the master settlement agreement to either join in the settlement or set up escrow accounts to benefit each state where they sell cigarettes. The accounts make available a pool of money for future claims for nonparticipating tobacco companies.

Chandler sued several companies that did not contribute to the escrow accounts as required. The state has obtained 13 judgments so far, including seven injunctions prohibiting sales of noncompliant products. The fines will go to the state treasury, Chandler said.

Companies paying fines include:

- Sun Tobacco: \$245,000;
- ITW Manufacturing: \$25,140;
- Dosal Tobacco: \$2,000;
- Patriot Tobacco: \$100;
- Cigtec Tobacco: \$100.



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